

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In an internal combustion engine having a compression ratio varying mechanism, in response to detection of the occurrence of  
5 any failure or trouble in the compression ratio varying mechanism, the control technique of the invention restricts execution of a specific control, which has adverse effects on stable combustion of the air-fuel mixture. The specific control having adverse effects  
10 on the stable combustion of the air-fuel mixture includes warm-up ignition delay control, lean burn control, and EGR control. This arrangement ensures stable combustion of the air-fuel mixture, even when the compression ratio varying mechanism is locked in at a low compression ratio. The technique of the invention thus enables the  
15 internal combustion engine to be driven stably, even in the case of the occurrence of any failure or trouble in the compression ratio varying mechanism.